

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for authorizing use of funds securely stored in a postal device, comprising:

upon power-up of the postal device, transmitting from the postal device to a remote server present location information of the postal device, wherein the present location information of the postal device is transmitted automatically by the postal device without any user interaction;

determining, at the remote server, a present location of the postal device based on the present location information;

comparing, at the remote server, the present location of the postal device with previously stored location information of the postal device;

determining, at the remote server, whether the present location of the postal device is within a predetermined region specified by the previously stored location information; and

when the present location of the postal device is within the predetermined region, transmitting to the postal device from the remote server an authorization to use the funds stored in the postal device to produce postage indicium, and

when the present location of the device is not within the predetermined region, transmitting to the postal device from the remote server a signal inhibiting use of the funds stored in the postal device.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising, when the present location of the postal device is not within the predetermined region,

issuing a license for the postal device ~~to use the funds~~ authorizing the use of a postal metering device at the present location ~~of the device~~.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising transmitting from the remote server to the postal device at least one of a zip code, ~~a city name and a state name~~ corresponding to the present location of the postal device.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises transmitting the present location information over a telephone line.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises transmitting the present location information over an internet connection.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises transmitting the present location information over a cellular telephone system.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises transmitting the present location information based on an output a position determining apparatus of the postal metering device.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the position determining apparatus is a global positioning system receiver.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said postal device is a postal security device.

16. (Currently Amended) A postal device for the secure storage of funds, comprising:

a memory for storing a value indicative of the funds;

a location generator for generating present location information of the postal device; and

a communication port for providing communication between the postal device and a remote server, wherein:

~~the communication port transmits~~ the present location information is transmitted via the communication port to the remote server automatically upon power-up of the postal device and without any user interaction;

~~the communication port receives an authorization~~ is received via the communication port from the remote server to use the postal device and the stored funds when a present location of the postal device as determined from the present location information indicates the present location of the postal device is within a preauthorized region of operation, and

~~the communication port receives a signal~~ is received by the postal device via the communication port from the remote server inhibiting use of the postal device and the stored funds when the present location of the postal device indicates the present location of the device is outside the preauthorized region of operation.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The device of claim 16, further comprising an apparatus for encrypting location communications between the device and the remote server.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for managing the use of stored funds, comprising:

a local device for securely storing the funds and outputting proof of postage indicium, comprising:

a memory for storing a value indicative of the funds and a postal drop off location,

a location generator for generating present postal drop off location information of the local device;

a communication port for providing communication between the local device and a remote server, wherein the communication port transmits the present location information to the remote server automatically upon power-up of the device and without any user interaction; and

the remote server, comprising:

a database storing a preauthorized region of operation including a postal drop off location for the local device, wherein:

the remote server compares a present postal drop off location of the local device provided by the present location information to the preauthorized region of operation;

the remote server issues an authorization to the local device to allow it to use the funds if the present postal drop off location of the local device is within the preauthorized region of operation,

the remote server issues a signal to the local device inhibiting use of the funds if the present postal drop off location of the local device is outside the preauthorized region of operation.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising: [[,]] transmitting from the remote server to a postal carrier a request for a new location license.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising: [[,]] determining the present postal drop off location of the device based on the device location code.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising: [[,]] determining the present location of the device based on a network address of the device.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising: [[,]] determining the present location of the device based on the device location code.

28. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 16, further comprising: [[.]]
an apparatus for digitally signing communications between the device and the
remote server.

29. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 16, further comprising: [[.]]
an apparatus for digitally signing communications between the device and the
remote server.

30. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 16, wherein the location
generator is a global ~~position~~ positioning system transmitter.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the local device
further comprises an apparatus for digitally signing location communications
between the local device and the remote

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the local device
further comprises an apparatus for encrypting location communications between
the local device and the remote server.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the
communication port receives from the remote server a license to allow it to use
the funds at the present location of the local device from the remote server when
the present location of the local device indicates the present location of the local
device is outside the preauthorized region of operation.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the remote server
requests the license from a postal carrier.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the location
generator is a global position system transmitter.

36. (New) A postal device that provides authorized funds for the disbursement of postage indicia, the device communicatively accessible by a host processor, wherein the host processor communicates with a remote server, the postal device comprising:

- a memory for storing an amount of funds;
- a communication port accessible by the host processor; and
- a location generator that provides a location signal, upon powering up, indicating the location of the device to the remote server via the communication port and the host processor.

37. (New) The method of claim 25 whereby the device location code may be displayed by the device.

38. (New) The method of claim 27 whereby the device location may be displayed by the device.